

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE [707] 476-2390 FAX [707] 445-7299

Dan Meier, Project Manager Bureau of Reclamation 2800 Cottage Way - MP-700 Sacramento, CA 95825 OCT 2 8 2002

CODE ACTION SURNAME & DATE

700 CODY 1012

RE: Comments on the Scope of EIS/EIR for South Delta Improvements Project

Dear Mr. Meier:

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors reviewed the Notice of Preparation for the South Delta Improvements Projects and today voted unanimously to request the following environmental issues be included in the environmental assessment of the project.

Increasing the capacity of the diversion at the state water project pump station from 6,700 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 8,500 cfs implies there could be an increase in diversions from the Trinity River project. This increase in pumping capacity would apparently increase the reliability of deliveries to various water contractors south of the delta from 55% to 65%. While this Board understands the Bureau's and State Department of Water Resources' desire for increase deliveries to their water contractors, the Board is greatly concerned that increased diversions from the Trinity River Project would have a severe adverse effect on listed anadromous fish in the Trinity and Klamath Rivers. It is suggested this impact be addressed by running a hydrological analysis for a dry year condition, with the flow release schedule in the December 2001 Record of Decision for the Trinity River.

Another item the Board would like to see addressed is the potential movement inland of the mixing zone of saltwater and freshwater that may occur in the delta during summer low flow periods. That zone could move further inland due to the increased pumping capacity of this project. This item might be addressed using the DSM2 model.

To decrease the demand for water in the dry season, the Board supports the alternative for one of the water contractors, namely Westlands, to retire roughly 200,000 acres from irrigation. This should decrease their need to retain their contracted volume of water (805,000 acre feet in 2002). With that retirement would new land be placed under crops and irrigation leading to additional selenium buildup?

Classification ENU 6.00

Project CVP

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If you have any questions regarding these comments please feel free to contact Supervisor Jimmy Smith at 707-476-2391.

Sincerely,

BONNIE NEELY, Chair

Board of Supervisors

BN/kr

cc: Charles Blackburn, Chair, Del Norte County Board of Supervisors

Chris Erickson, Chair, Trinity County Board of Supervisors

Clifford Lyle Marshal, Chair, Hoopa Tribal Council

Alvis Johnson, Chair, Karuk Tribal Council Susan Masten, Chair, Yurok Tribal Council